

WHAT ABOUT DINOSAURS

from
 **FAITH MAKES SENSE**

One of the most frequently asked questions from kids and adults is, “What does the Bible say about dinosaurs?” Interestingly, the Bible on one hand says very little and yet on the other explains a lot more than people think. Here is a brief introduction to the topic of dinosaurs and the Bible.

WORLDVIEW MATTERS

When approaching the topic of dinosaurs and the Bible, we must be clear about the worldview in which the evidence will be evaluated. A biblical worldview does not discount or ignore science as a means of learning about creation. Most, if not all, of the individuals credited as pioneers or founders of major scientific disciplines were explicitly Christian or believed in God. The reason they embarked on the journey of scientific discovery is because they believed in a God who created an ordered world they could learn from. This is the same way we will approach the topic of dinosaurs. Scripture informs our evidenced-based evaluation. Here are the foundational facts for our presentation of the dinosaur-related data in a biblical worldview.

6TH DAY OF CREATION

Dinosaurs are commonly understood as land-dwelling, air breathing creatures. They were created on the 6th along with all other land animals.

NOT IN THE BIBLE

The word “dinosaur” wasn’t invented until 1842. It doesn’t appear in the text of the Bible because it didn’t exist when the Bible was written.

FOSSIL EVIDENCE

Fossilized remains of animals that lived in the past is tangible evidence. It should be studied. Christians should not fear evaluating evidence.

FOSSIL CREATION

Just because an animal lived and died in the past does not mean it will become a fossil. What happens to animals today that die on the side of a road or in the wilderness? If their bodies are left in the open, scavengers and the process of decomposition will reduce the remains naturally. In order for an animal’s remains to become a fossil, three key things are required.

RAPID BURIAL

Rapid burial is required for fossil creation. If animal remains are not rapidly buried, the remains will be scavenged or decompose.

LOW OXYGEN

A low oxygen environment is required for fossil creation. The presence of oxygen aids in decomposition and ruins remains before fossilization.

MINERAL RICH WATER

Mineral rich water is required for fossil creation. Petrification, the process of minerals replacing organic tissue, can’t happen without it.

FLOOD FOSSILS

Given the Bible’s description of the catastrophic worldwide flood, land-dwelling air-breathing animals that were not aboard the Ark would have been rapidly buried, in a low oxygen environment under the weight of a massive amount mineral rich water. It is completely reasonable to conclude fossils discovered today were created during the global flood described in Genesis.

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HUMANS AND DINOSAURS

The Bible describes dinosaurs and people being created on the same day of creation week. This directly implies humans and dinosaurs lived in creation at the same time. This is a big claim that stands directly opposed to the idea that humans and dinosaurs are separated by millions of years of evolution. Is there any evidence that supports the Bible's description of creation? In fact, there is.

CAMBODIAN STEGOSAURUS

A stone carving depicting a stegosaurus has been discovered in a column of artwork at a temple in Cambodia.

AFRICAN SAUROPOD

A cave drawing discovered in South Africa which appears to show a group of long-necked animals next to a three-toed reptilian-looking footprint.

DINO SOFT TISSUE

Scientists discovered and then independently verified soft tissue and collagen proteins in a fossil thought to be 70+ million years old!

DINOSAUR FATE

The inevitable question that arises from entertaining the idea that dinosaurs are not millions of years old, but have only been extinct for a few thousand years is simple... What happened? Answering from a biblical worldview, there are two possible answers. It could be either, but without more data, it is difficult to know with certainty.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

The Bible describes the flood as a catastrophic global event that changed major features of our planet. These changes directly shortened human lifespans. It is very reasonable that some animals died due to the same changes.

HUNTED TO EXTINCTION

Extinction is the disappearance of an animal as a result of hunting faster than the population can reproduce. There is no reason to assume dinosaurs were immune to being hunted by humans or other animals.

ICE AGE RESPONSE

The Genesis Flood was a global event that changed not only the surface of the planet, but also the atmosphere. As more water vapor and volcanic gasses filled the sky, less solar heat penetrated the cloud cover. The massive amount of water, combined with lower temperatures can easily explain the onset of an ice age. An ice age is defined as a period of time when permanent ice sheets cover at least one of the planet's poles. That means we are currently living in an ice age that could easily be explained as beginning at the end of the global Genesis Flood.

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